



# cityNEWS



## ◦ A NEW BROOKVIEW COMMUNITY CENTER

Plans are under way for Golden Valley's new community center, which will replace the nearly 100-year-old current structure. Look inside for more information about the design, community input, and construction process.

**SEE PAGES 6 & 8-9**

## LRT MUNICIPAL CONSENT

Golden Valley will consider municipal consent for the light rail line in February.

**SEE PAGE 2**

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## Golden Valley To Consider Municipal Consent For Light Rail Line

The City of Golden Valley will hold an open house and public hearing Tues, Feb 2 to review the \$1.5 billion proposal for the planned METRO Blue Line Extension LRT project. The open house will be from 6-7 pm at City Hall, followed by a public hearing at 7 pm. The City Council will then officially vote on municipal consent Tues, Feb 16.

The Metropolitan Council's METRO Blue Line Extension corridor plan includes 11 new stations that run from Minneapolis to Brooklyn Park (see map at right), a park-and-ride lot at the Golden Valley Rd station, and an improved intersection at Theodore Wirth Parkway and Golden Valley Rd with trail connections.

The Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority, Hennepin County, and the Metropolitan Council held a joint public hearing on the plan Jan 19. State law requires that all other municipalities involved conduct their own public hearings within 45 days after that. Following those hearings, Hennepin County and each city on the route will then vote on the plan individually in a process known as municipal consent. To see plan documents, go to <http://metro council.org/Transportation/Projects/Current-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension/Municipal-Consent/Plan-Documents.aspx>. Paper copies are available at Golden Valley City Hall and Brookview Community Center.

Golden Valley's Feb 2 public hearing won't be used to hash out or change details, but instead to discuss and crosscheck the plan before making an official vote on it, says Jason Zimmerman, City planning manager.

### Light Rail Transit Open House & Public Hearing

Tues, Feb 2, 2016

Open House: 6-7 pm

Public Hearing: 7 pm

@ Golden Valley City Hall

"At this point, most of the public input has been given and a lot of that input is already incorporated into the plan," Zimmerman says.

All municipalities involved must approve the plan in order to move forward with it in its current state. While the general

details of the plan are fixed (ie, number and location of stations, routes, etc), the finer details, such as station designs and amenities, will continue to be worked out over the next year, Zimmerman explains.

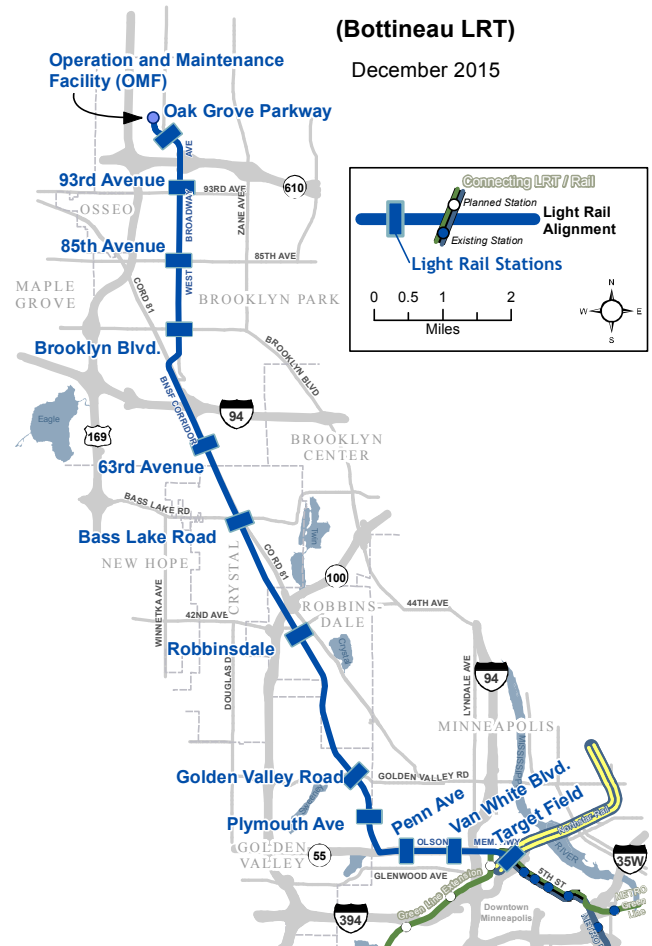
"What we're considering now is the plan on a general level, the broad strokes," he says. "There's still going to be a lot of work refining the plan going forward."

In August 2016, staff will finalize the design plans and specifications and apply with the Federal Transit Administration to enter the engineering phase of the project. Heavy construction is set to occur in 2018-2020, with passenger service of the 13-mile extension beginning in 2021.

### METRO Blue Line Extension

(Bottineau LRT)

December 2015



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# Run The Valley Is April 16— Sign Up Now

Validate your New Year's resolutions to get fit by signing up for Golden Valley's annual *Run the Valley*. Join your neighbors April 16 for the 23rd anniversary of this 5K/10K fund-raising event. In 2015, *Run the Valley* drew 442 participants and multiple volunteers, and raised \$16,000 for the Golden Valley Human Services Fund, which allocates the money to local human service organizations that benefit the community (see story below).

## How To Register

- Online by April 14 at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/index.php) (click "Registration")
- Download form from City website and submit by April 15 with payment by mail to 200 Brookview Parkway, 55426 or by fax (763-512-2344)
- In person at Brookview Community Center
- On race day, from 7–7:45 am at Brookview Community Center

Entry fee is \$30 by Feb 29, \$35 March 1–April 15 (by 3 pm), and \$40 on race day. Includes long-sleeved moisture-wick T-shirt, race number, and chip timing. Fee is \$25 for walkers and \$20 for children 12 and under when accompanied by an adult entry (youth fee includes T-shirt and race number only). To be eligible for a medal, chip timing must be used. For the 0.2K Kids Fun Run the fee is \$5, which includes a race number and a ribbon. All proceeds are allocated to non-profit organizations that serve Golden Valley residents in need.

Last year's corporate sponsors were Park Nicollet Clinic, Bassett Creek Dental, City of Golden Valley, HCMC, Liberty Carton,

Al's Coffee, Byerly's, Channel 12/NWCT, Einstein Bros Bagels, Finken Water Solutions, Frito Lay, Go Health Chiropractic, Old Fashioned Donut Shoppe, Perkins Family Restaurant – Highway 55, Perkins Family Restaurant – 394, Pilgrim Cleaners, Road ID, Valley Pastries, and Yoplait USA.

For more information or to volunteer, visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/events/runthevalley/) or call Parks and Recreation at 763-512-2345. 🐾



## 2016 Run The Valley Sat, April 16

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 7:45 am: 0.2K Kids Fun Run</li><li>• 8 am: 10K race</li><li>• 8:15 am: 5K race</li><li>• 8:20 am: 5K walk (5K and 10K races will be chip-timed)</li></ul> | Start and finish at Brookview Community Center, 200 Brookview Parkway S. Certified course runs through residential Golden Valley. Water stops and post-race complimentary snacks donated by area businesses. |
|---|--|

## GVHSF Allocates \$50,000 For 2016

Since 1992, the Golden Valley Human Services Fund (GVHSF) has worked to support organizations that serve Golden Valley residents, providing a total of \$1,472,502 in funding.

Each year, this board of citizen volunteers reviews requests and allocates funds raised by the GVHSF through various annual fundraisers such as April's Run the Valley and July's Golden Valley Golf Classic.

For 2016, the GVHSF allocated 50,000 to 10 local human service organizations: Canvas Health/Crisis Connection (\$2,000), Crisis Nursery (\$2,500), Northwest Suburban Dinner at Your Door (\$8,000), PRISM (\$12,000), Senior Community

Services HOME Program (\$5,000), Senior Community Services Outreach (\$2,000), Sojourner Project (\$5,000), The Bridge For Youth (\$4,000), Tree House (\$4,500), and YMCA-New Hope (\$5,000).

For more information about GVHSF activities, events, and funding criteria, or to join the list of contributors and volunteers, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/boards/gvhsf/index.php) or call 763-512-2345. 🐾





# Remodeling Projects Provide Great Opportunities For Going Green

If you're planning a remodeling or construction project this year, consider thinking "green." Environmentally sound construction techniques and proper disposal of construction waste can make your home a healthier place to live and save you money.

## Building Phase

One way to remodel green is using recycled or salvaged materials, but it can take longer to find what you need. Plan ahead and give yourself time to track down materials that can be reused. Thanks to the Internet, this is getting easier. For example, do a search for local salvage facilities and then stop by to peruse the available selections. Habitat For Humanity's ReStore in New Brighton provides opportunities for both shopping and donating. Online resources like Craigslist and [TwinCitiesFreeMarket.org](http://TwinCitiesFreeMarket.org) offer a wide range of potential items.

Several other online sites offer green building guides and salvage/reuse/materials exchange resources:

- [www.macalester.edu/ecohouse/greenblgresources/remodeling.htm](http://www.macalester.edu/ecohouse/greenblgresources/remodeling.htm)
- [www.reusemn.org/where-to-reuse.html](http://www.reusemn.org/where-to-reuse.html)
- [www.rethinkrecycling.com/businesses/waste-management-guide/materials-name/building-materials](http://www.rethinkrecycling.com/businesses/waste-management-guide/materials-name/building-materials)
- <http://greenhomeguide.com/>

Also, keep in mind that less construction means less waste, so figure out ways to build around and within existing structures, rather than tearing them down or building entirely new ones. By the same token, plan your building so its features will be easy to renovate, build around, or remove in the future. It helps to seek contractors who are already knowledgeable about building green.

## Disposal Phase

Another component of any home improvement project is disposal of debris, old appliances, and other remnants. Learning about your options for disposal before you start a project will help you avoid potential delays or unexpected expenses.

Hennepin County provides a multitude of disposal options in its "A to Z How To Get Rid of It" guide at [www.hennepinatz.org/azguide/household.html](http://www.hennepinatz.org/azguide/household.html).

Most building materials are not accepted at the Hennepin County recycling drop-off sites. Contact your waste hauler regarding disposal of the following items: asphalt shingles, plastic, porcelain or fiberglass bathtubs, ceiling tiles, countertops (stone, concrete, laminate, or wood), vinyl flooring installed after 1986, wood flooring, tile (ceramic, porcelain, or glass), sheetrock and drywall, wood and vinyl siding, toilets, and fiberglass, porcelain, and plastic sinks.

For more information on building green, visit the Minnesota Pollution Control site at [www.pca.state.mn.us/quick-links/green-building](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/quick-links/green-building). Another good resource is [www.planetreuse.com](http://www.planetreuse.com).



## Golden Valley Recycles

### GRAY Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
July 4	Sat, July 9
Thanksgiving	Sat, Nov 26

### BLUE Holiday Schedule

Holiday Week	Pick-Up Date
Memorial Day	Sat, June 4
Labor Day	Sat, Sept 10

### Missed Pick Ups

If your recycling is missed on Friday, call Republic Services at 952-941-5174, Option 5, before noon on the following Monday. If you have specific recycling questions, call 763-593-8030.

*The Golden Valley Recycling Program is partially funded by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners.*



*To sign up to receive emailed recycling updates and reminders, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe).*



# Keeping Our Waterways Clean

## Learn To Recognize And Report Illicit Discharge

With more water bodies becoming impaired from different pollutants each year, it is increasingly important that we limit the amount of pollutants that reach them. Stopping illicit discharges will help secure a future of clean water for generations to come.

Illicit discharges enter water bodies through either direct connections (eg, wastewater piping connected to storm drains) or indirect connections (eg, cracked sanitary sewer systems, spills collected by storm drains, or paint or used oil dumped into a storm drain). The result is untreated discharges that contribute to high levels of pollutants, including heavy metals, toxins, oil and grease, solvents, nutrients, viruses, and bacteria. Studies by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) show that pollutant levels from illicit discharges are high enough to significantly degrade water quality and threaten aquatic, wildlife, and human health.

Federal regulations define an illicit discharge as any discharge to a MS4 (Small Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) that is not composed entirely of storm water, because MS4s are not designed to accept, process, or discharge non-storm water wastes. Exceptions include discharges from permitted industrial sources and firefighting activities.

Recently the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reissued its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from MS4s. As required by the MS4 General Permit, the City of Golden Valley has developed procedures for eliminating non-storm water discharges to local waterways. Called the Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination (IDDE) Program, it includes information about detecting and reporting possible pollutants.

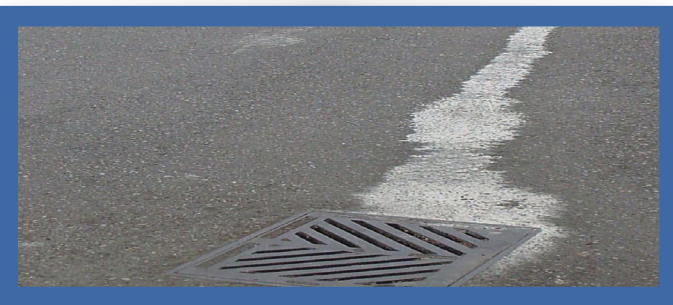
### Detecting Illicit Discharge

Golden Valley's City crews are always on the lookout for illicit discharges to local waters while conducting their regular duties. They also conduct formal outfall inspections while performing other work. Employees who observe evidence of an illicit discharge collect information so appropriate action can be taken.

Citizens can help by learning as much as possible about what materials can go down storm drains and by being alert for potential illicit discharges to the storm sewer system. Every curb line is like a shoreline and needs to be treated the same. If you see something that looks out of place or notice illegal dumping, make sure to report it.



*Any suspected illicit discharge should be reported to the City.*




### Reporting Illicit Discharge

One effective way to identify illicit discharges is through a citizen reporting program. The City of Golden Valley provides detailed information about illicit discharge, as well as an online reporting form, at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/surfacewater/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/surfacewater/index.php). Citizens who see illicit discharges can also contact Water Resources Technician Tom Hoffman at [thoffman@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:thoffman@goldenvalleymn.gov) or 763-593-8044.

Promptly report any incidents as soon as you see them. Quick response times are key to stopping pollutants. In particular, report:

- murky water runoff
- an oily sheen on surface water
- dry weather flow
- unusual odors
- off color water
- residue left in the street after water has dried
- suspicious activity around storm drains

It's important to collect as much information as possible at the time of initial observation, including potential sources, because of the likelihood that a discharge may be transitory or intermittent.

If you witness illegal dumping, an emergency spill, or a situation that could immediately threaten life or public safety, call 911 immediately. 

# Recreation Highlights

Complete list in the Winter Recreation Activities catalog or at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation).

## Youth

**Youth Bowling Fun!**—Feb 20–March 5, 10:30 am–noon (grades K–6), 1–3 pm (grades 7–12). Texa Tonka Lanes, \$19/person.

**Wiffo-O Ball League** (ages 9–12)—Mon, March 7–April 4, 6 pm or 7 pm (varies by week), Davis, \$19/person.

## Adult

**Men's Softball Leagues**—Team registration is open! Register online or download packet.

**Women's Basic Self Defense Workshop**—Wed, March 30–April 6, 5:45–7:45 pm, Davis, \$50.

## Seniors

**Social Media Basics for Active Adults**—Thur, Feb 11 & Wed, Apr 6, 1–2:45 pm, Brookview, \$6/resident, \$7/non-resident.

**NEW! Friday Films**—Enjoy musicals, documentaries, classics, and more! Fri, Feb 19 & Mar 18, 2 pm, Meadow Ridge Senior Living, 7475 Country Club Dr. Register at 763-512-2339 the Wednesday before.

**Speakers**—Feb 4: “Medical Practices and Procedures During the Civil War,” 1 pm, Calvary Coop, 7600 Golden Valley Rd, free. Feb 24: “Emergency Services: Are You Prepared?” 9:45 am, Brookview, \$2 at door. Call 763-512-2339 to register.

**For more information or to register,** call 763-512-2345 for Youth and Adult and 763-512-2339 for Seniors (M–F, 8 am–4:30 pm). Register in person, by mail, fax, or online.



# Brookview Project Enters Schematic Design Phase

## Community Open House Set For Feb 23

After years of discussion and review, the City Council voted Dec 17 to approve a general design plan and contract for a new \$18.2 million Brookview Community Center building, with construction set to begin in fall 2016.

While the budget and general details of the project are set, the City will hold a public input open house Feb 23 to get feedback from residents on schematic design plans. Staff will present the finalized design at a public meeting June 14.

The City Council will review the design and construction progress through check-ins at its Council/Manager work sessions (second Tuesday of each month) and will approve the final design and construction bids at regular City Council meetings. The Open Space and Recreation Commission will check in monthly, and the Planning Commission and Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission will also be involved as design work progresses.

Although the general details for the new building have been settled, a lot of the fine details still need to be worked out, says Rick Birno, parks and recreation director.

“Community input and communication will be significant,” Birno says. “The City website will be continually updated, and all the input will be documented and used to help finalize the design.”

The new 37,000-square-foot building will be constructed just south of the existing 19,000-square-foot Community Center, which means the existing building won't have to be demolished until its replacement is up and running. Groundbreaking is set for Oct 4, 2016. Completion of the first construction phase is set for fall 2017, at which time the old building will be demolished and the second construction phase will begin, set for completion in July 2018 (see design and construction timeline on pages 8–9).

The City will fund the project with a loan from its Housing and Redevelopment Authority, using a lease-purchase option on a 20-year lease. Starting in 2017, a median-value home (approximately \$250,000) in Golden Valley will see an estimated \$9/month increase in property taxes to pay back the bond and fund operations for this project.

To learn more about the new Brookview, see the story on pages 8–9. For more information or to follow the process online, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/brookview/brookview-study.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/brookview/brookview-study.php).

## Open House Brookview Community Center Replacement Plans

Tues, Feb 23, 2016

Open House: 6–7:30 pm

@ Brookview Community Center  
(Willow Room)

200 Brookview Parkway S





## Joint Program Debuts In 2016 With “Ordinary Grace”

The talk of the town this spring could be a book. “Golden Valley Reads,” a joint venture between the City of Golden Valley and Hennepin County Library–Golden Valley, debuts in 2016 to encourage Golden Valley residents to read one book together each year.

The Golden Valley Reads book for 2016 will be “Ordinary Grace” by William Kent Krueger. In this novel, protagonist Frank Drum explores the web of secrets and betrayal that shattered his family and their small Minnesota community in 1961. Pick up a copy at the newly renovated Golden Valley Library (which re-opens Jan 23), or pick up a copy now at a nearby Hennepin County library.

Krueger will discuss the journey that resulted in the writing of this book Mon, May 9, 2016 at 7 pm at Brookview Community Center. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

### About The Author

William Kent Krueger grew up in the Cascade Mountains of Oregon and briefly attended Stanford University before being kicked out for radical activities. After that he worked in logging and construction, tried freelance journalism, and ended up researching child development at the University of Minnesota. He currently lives in St Paul with his wife of more than 40 years and makes his living as a full-time author.

Krueger writes a mystery series set in the north woods of Minnesota featuring Cork O'Connor, the part Irish and part Ojibwe former sheriff of Tamarack County. His work has received the Minnesota Book Award, the Loft-McKnight Fiction Award, the Anthony Award, the Barry Award, the Dilys Award, and the Friends of American Writers Prize. His last five novels were all New York Times best sellers.

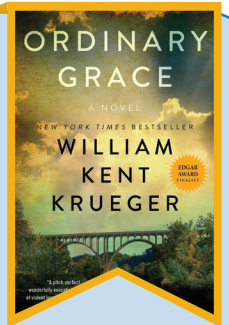
“Ordinary Grace,” published in 2013, received the Edgar Award, given by the Mystery Writers of America in recognition for the best novel published in that year. 

### Summary of “Ordinary Grace”

New Bremen, Minnesota, 1961. The Twins were playing their debut season, ice-cold root beers were selling out at the soda counter of Halderson's Drugstore, and Hot Stuff comic books were a mainstay on every barbershop magazine rack. It was a time of innocence and hope for a country with a new, young president. But for 13-year-old Frank Drum it was a grim summer in which death visited frequently and assumed many forms. Accident. Nature. Suicide. Murder.

Frank begins the season preoccupied with the concerns of any teenage boy, but when tragedy unexpectedly strikes his family—which includes his Methodist minister father; his passionate, artistic mother; Juilliard-bound older sister; and wise-beyond-his-years kid brother—he finds himself thrust into an adult world full of secrets, lies, adultery, and betrayal, suddenly called upon to demonstrate a maturity and gumption beyond his years.

Told from Frank's perspective 40 years after that fateful summer, Ordinary Grace is a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of young manhood, trying to understand a world that seems to be falling apart around him.



## Seasonal Employment

### City of Golden Valley Offers Multiple Opportunities

The City of Golden Valley hires almost 100 seasonal employees each year to help with Brookview Golf Course, parks and recreation, athletics, and maintenance. These positions work well for students looking to find summer work and for those looking to supplement other employment.

Positions will be posted in January so people can apply and have a chance to interview over spring break, says Chantell Knauss, assistant city manager.

To see the job descriptions, and to apply, visit [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/jobs](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/jobs) (several positions have more than one opening). 





# A New Age Dawns For Brookview Community Center

*The new Brookview Community Center will feature views like this from many of its public spaces.*

After years of expanding, remodeling, and patching a nearly 100-year-old private golf club building into something that would serve Golden Valley as a community center, the City has decided to cut its losses and build a new facility that will meet the needs of today's residents.

As the current building became less adequate and yet required more upkeep over the years, it became increasingly clear to the City Council and staff that continued investment wasn't smart money.

"We've been putting Band-Aids on Band-Aids for years," says Ben Disch, Brookview Golf Course manager.

How inadequate? Let us count the ways.

First of all, the current building fails to meet modern accessibility standards.

"It's a significant problem," says Rick Birno, parks and recreation director. "Right now, people with accessibility needs are required to go outside of the building to access the second floor."

The bathrooms don't meet ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act) standards, he adds. And electrical and mechanical aspects of the building are not compliant with modern building codes.

There is also a shortage of multi-use rooms. The banquet room is too small while other gathering areas are limited in

both number and size. Some facilities, like the grill's refrigerator system, are more than two decades old.

## Out With The Old

After much consideration, the City Council decided to move forward with plans for a new building. The process included approving a feasibility study for a new building, appointing a citizen task force to study Golden Valley's needs for recreation and community gathering spots, and hearing citizen input. The Council then considered recommendations ranging from \$9 million (the cost to replace Brookview at its current size) to \$38 million, weighed the tax impacts, and directed staff to develop a right-sized plan for around \$18 million (see story on page 6).

## In With The New

"The new Brookview will see a vast improvement in its ability," Birno says. "Our bathrooms, common areas, kitchen, and prep areas will all be properly sized," he says.

The new building will have a lot more functional space, including six to eight multi-use rooms (up from three currently), expanded banquet facilities, an expanded restaurant/grill, and an indoor play area to promote winter activity.

2016

**Schematic Design Phase**  
(10 weeks)

**Feb 23, 2016**  
Public Open House #1

**Design Development Phase**  
(11 weeks)

**April 12, 2016**  
HRA Public Hearing on lease purchase

**Construction Documents Phase** (12 weeks)

**May 3, 2016**  
City Council approval of design and budget

**Bidding/Negotiation Phase**  
(8 weeks)

**June 14, 2016**  
Public Open House #2

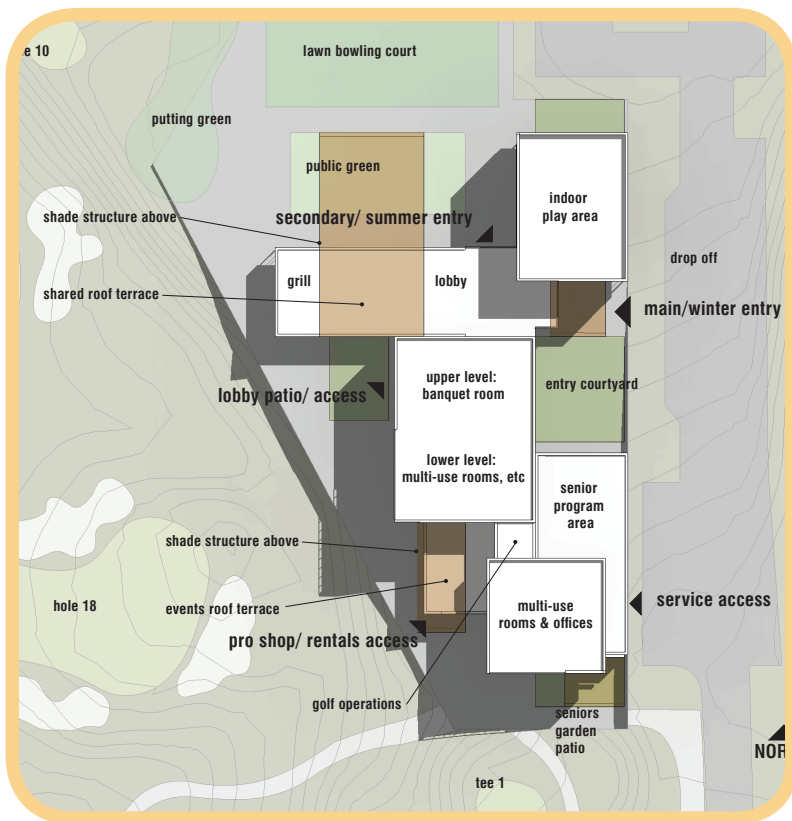
“We want Brookview to become a year-round, dynamic facility,” Birno says. “We have been trying to do that with the current building, but the new one will be designed specifically to serve the community in all seasons.”

For the warmer seasons, there will be many more outdoor gathering spaces around the building, with several deck and patio options. The goal is to maximize use of all aspects of the building, both inside and out, as well as the views of Brookview Golf Course.

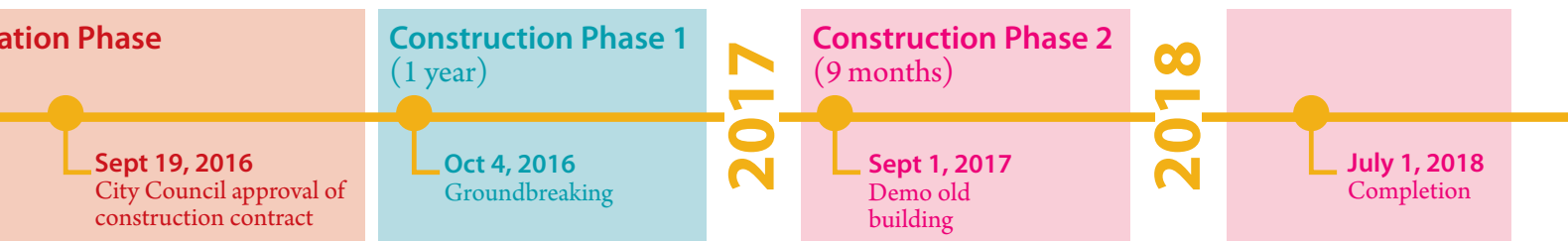
“We’ve worked really hard to get to this point,” Disch says. “We’ve been talking about it for a very long time, and as we get into detail and design work, it’s extremely exciting.”

The City Council will be taking more community input about the schematic design at an open house Feb 23 (see page 6). The timeline below outlines key design and construction dates as well as opportunities for public input.

To follow the process online, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/brookview/brookview-study.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/recreation/brookview/brookview-study.php).



Initial design work includes the site plan (above) and building schematic (left).





# It's A Bird, It's A Plane, It's...Landscaping?

## Environmental Design Is A Crime-Fighting Superhero

When designing buildings, architects generally consider the threats of nature—fire, earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes. In the past 30 years, however, they have added the threat of crime to their purpose.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) is a specialty that has grown over the years. A neat, clean yard sends the message that the owners are aware of and watching their surroundings, and the Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) encourages residents who are considering landscaping or remodeling to take more action, as recommended by CPTED, to reduce or eliminate the potential for crime.



**Natural access control** helps reduce the opportunity for crime by denying access to certain areas and making potential offenders look out of place so they become obvious and feel a sense of risk. Landscaping, flower beds, potted plants, and other elements are positioned to discourage traffic cutting through yards and access to private areas while highlighting public routes.



**Natural surveillance** in the form of well-lit exterior doors and yards, a front door visible from the street, and properly maintained landscaping provides maximum viewing to and from the house to make intruders easily seen. View your home from the street after dark with the outside lights on. If the front door isn't easily visible, add more lighting. If trees or shrubs obscure doors and windows, trim them to eliminate places for a criminal to hide. Add lighting to illuminate other dark places.



**Territorial reinforcement** is two-fold design intended to develop a sense of control by residents and discourage potential offenders. Shrubs, trees, flower pots, or other elements (such as pavement or fences) can help define property lines and establish territory. House addresses should be clearly

visible from the street with contrasting, non-reflective numbers at least 5 inches high. Finally, front porches or stoops should create a transitional area between the street and the home.

**Target hardening** (locks) is the most traditional means of crime prevention. Here are a few fundamentals:

- All exterior doors, including garage service doors, should have inside hinges and a single-cylinder deadbolt lock (thumb-turn on the inside) with a minimum 1-inch throw. Door frames should include an 8-inch high-security strike plate secured by six 3-inch screws (to anchor the strike plate to the stud behind the decorative molding). The two 3/4-inch screws on the average door frame strike plate are easily kicked in by many burglars.
- All windows should have locks.
- Siding glass doors should have a stationary outside door and a locking device on the inside moving door.
- Door locks should be at least 40 inches from windows. If closer, a double-cylinder deadbolt (key needed on both sides of lock) should be installed. Remember, a lock that requires a key on both sides may hinder escape in the event of a fire. If you have these types of locks, it may be wise to leave a key in the inside lock when people are home.



Home burglary is often a crime of opportunity. Minimize the opportunity by making your home as difficult as possible to enter. For more information on crime prevention, call the GVPD at 763-593-8058, or go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/departments/police/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/departments/police/index.php).



# We're Looking For Firefighters

Golden Valley needs paid on-call firefighters, but joining the Golden Valley Fire Department is no light decision. It's a real skills-driven commitment that will leave you prepared to face any number of unique challenges, both as a firefighter and as a citizen. First year firefighters attend two nights of training per week, for 160 hours of training in the first six months.

So why put in that kind of time and effort? Just ask a firefighter...

## **Brent Hadoff** *Hockey Fan, Red Knight, Firefighter*

In 2003, Brent Hadoff moved to Golden Valley to be a finance manager for Honeywell. Over the next few years he felt like something was missing, like he wasn't as involved in the community as he wanted to be.

Hadoff, 34, had wanted to be a firefighter from a very young age. It ran in the family. His godfather and late grandfather had both been firefighters. He spent a lot of time in the station and watched as they responded to calls, so when looking to achieve a greater sense of community, signing up to be an on-call firefighter was a natural choice.

That was in 2009 and he hasn't looked back since.

"It's a large time commitment," Hadoff says. "But it's been the most rewarding experience of my life."

## **John Bean** *Little League Coach, Father, Firefighter*

John Bean's house caught fire when he was 15. He remembers the Minneapolis firefighters taking the time to grab valuable items from the burning home, and their efforts left an impression on him. Now, as a firefighter himself, he says his mind always shifts to what's in the home, what could be saved.

Bean, 34, has been a paid on-call firefighter for Golden Valley since 2009.

"I wanted to be someone who was doing something, instead of someone just saying that something should be done."

Being a firefighter is a family effort, he adds.

"At times, it can be challenging," Bean says, "but the importance of what the firefighters do carries us. We figure it out. Plus, it helps that the kids think it's pretty cool."

## **Tom Bloxsom** *Father, Salesman, Firefighter*

Before moving to Golden Valley, Tom Bloxsom, 53, lived and worked near Newtown, Connecticut. He was there to witness as firefighters responded to the Sandy Hook Elementary school tragedy. He was at work when the shootings occurred, sitting at the same desk he was sitting at during the events of Sept 11, 2001.

This led to a decision.

"I didn't want to be a bystander anymore," Bloxsom says.

When he and his family moved to Golden Valley last year, Bloxsom, who works in sales, signed up to be a paid on-call firefighter.

"This is my home," Tom says. "I want to be there for the community in times of helplessness and crisis."



**goldenvalleyfire.com**

# Get Ready For Your New Water Meter

## City To Begin Upgrading All Water Meters In Late January



*Old water meter*

being replaced is 10–15 years, and the new electronics being installed should last upwards of 20–25 years. Water meters in Golden Valley were last replaced about 14 years ago.

The new radio-read meters will allow meter readers to collect information from a fixed-base antenna instead of a drive-by radio read collector, which will save about four to five reading days per month.

All commercial meters will be upgraded first, with expected completion in early 2016.

In January 2016, the City of Golden Valley will begin a program to replace all residential water meters with the latest technology for improved efficiency of meter reading. The City expects to complete the program in four to five years using its maintenance staff.

The average life expectancy of the electronics

For residential meters, City crews will work through the community in sections, completing one area before moving to the next. The City will notify residents by mail about two weeks before moving into their neighborhood. The letter will ask residents to clear a 3-foot area around the meter, check the valves before calling for an appointment, and have an adult at home when the meter is changed. It takes 15–20 minutes to exchange a meter, barring any difficulties. **There should be no interruption of water service during this upgrade.**

The City will take every precaution to prevent any damage to the residence. If the installer believes the plumbing could be damaged, the resident will be informed. The resident will then have to get a plumber to make repairs before requesting another meter exchange appointment.

Questions? Contact Utilities Maintenance Supervisor Joe Hansen at [jhansen@goldenvalleymn.gov](mailto:jhansen@goldenvalleymn.gov) or 763-593-8038.



*Upgraded water meter*

## Golden Valley Gets Insurance Rating Upgrade

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) recently upgraded Golden Valley's ISO rating from 69.15 in 2005 to 69.17 today for residential housing, and from 69.32 to 72.07 for commercial properties. The

rating improvement, while slight, could result in a small decrease in insurance premiums for property owners, though there is no requirement that insurers use the ISO advisory ratings.

The higher ratings are a result of improved building codes and better code enforcement, according to the ISO report.

## Sign Up For New Emergency Notification Service



GV Emergency is a mass notification tool that will help the City more effectively communicate with residents in the event of an emergency. The system will only be used during community-wide or localized emergencies as well as in situations that may affect public safety or City services. This will include events that

- pose an immediate threat to life, health, property, or environment

- have already caused loss of life, health detriments, or property or environmental damage
- have a high probability of escalating to cause immediate danger to life, health, property, or environment

### Subscribe Now!

GV Emergency will provide important information via text, phone call, or email, depending on subscriber preferences. But for the tool to be effective, you need to sign up. To get started, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/gv-emergency/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/gv-emergency/index.php) and follow the directions.



# Got A Project? Get Permits Early

Before you get started on a home improvement project, remember one of the easiest ways to ensure things go smoothly is to plan ahead. Visit the City Inspections Division first thing to get complete information about how long it takes to obtain required permits, inspections, or variances before you hire and schedule contractors.

This saves you money on two fronts. First, you won't face any future problems for going forward without a permit. Second, it will guarantee your projects are properly inspected, so you won't find out too late that they're not up to code. No one wants to tear down a project and start over again because of a few oversights.

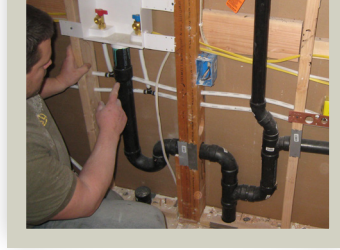
Permits ensure that construction in Golden Valley meets local, state, and federal building standards and codes. The permit process provides a way for City building officials and inspectors to review the design and inspect construction to ensure that minimum standards are met and appropriate materials are used. When a property does not comply with the codes, its value decreases. Building permits provide a way for cities to ensure the

health, safety, and welfare of the community and property occupants and for property owners to ensure that their investment is protected.

Getting a permit may take several weeks, causing delays in your project if you don't get to it early.

The steps for getting a building permit depend on the project. For a list of permits by project and to get other tips, go to [www.goldenvalleymn.gov](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov), click on the "Your Home & Yard" tab, then click on "Home Projects & Permits."

Questions? Call Golden Valley Inspections at 763-593-8090. 🌿



## 2015 Operation Rescue Room GV Resident Wins Ugliest Room Contest

When Susan Welles and her family moved into their Golden Valley home three years ago, they knew it was just a matter of time before the teenagers took over the basement.

"We only have one finished bathroom with a shower, which the oldest girl has already started to take over," says Welles, winner of last year's West Metro Home Remodeling Fair Operation Rescue Room contest (learn more on page 16).

The house's second bathroom is tucked away under the stairs in the basement, with a toilet that leaks any time it's flushed, cobbled-together wood paneling, 1950s pale blue tile, a shower with no ceiling (just a Styrofoam placeholder that's not waterproof), "plenty of mold," a detached wall sink, and a foot-wide hole in the floor exposing dirt.

"It's just a scary little room," Welles says. A room scary enough to be voted the ugliest in the West Metro, but its days are numbered. The room will be demolished and replaced with a new bathroom in a different location, complete with updated plumbing and a total lack of floor holes. It's an expensive project, Welles says, so the \$1,000 prize for winning Operation Rescue Room is definitely appreciated.



"It doesn't cover the cost, but it certainly helps."

Welles was encouraged to enter the contest in 2014 after she and the kids visited the Home Remodeling Fair and saw the photos of all the ugly entries.

"They were like, 'we should enter our bathroom next year. We've got to do this.'" And when they won, Welles says, there was no embarrassment. "The kids were telling everyone at school, 'we won the nasty room contest!'"

Now, she adds, with construction under way, the basement will soon have a usable bathroom, just in time for the boys to take it over. 🌿



# Avoid Distracted Walking, It May Save Your Life

## Cell Phone-Related Injuries On The Rise

Fifty percent of pedestrian accidents are caused by motorists, and 50 percent are caused by pedestrians themselves. But while the responsibility is split 50/50, pedestrians should be aware of 100 percent of all that could go wrong, because even if it's the driver's fault, it's still the pedestrian who's lying on the pavement.

While vigilance is imperative for pedestrian safety, Minnesota has seen some troubling statistics when it comes to inattentive pedestrians. According to the Minnesota Department of Public Safety, there were nearly 40 pedestrian deaths in the state in 2015 caused by cell-phone-distracted walking.

And it's not just a state problem. The National Safety Council this year added cell-phone-distracted walking to its data of unintentional deaths and injuries and found that more than 11,000 people were injured between 2000 and 2011 as a result of distracted walking.

"Bottom line—resist the urge to use your phone not only when operating a moving vehicle, but also when around moving vehicles," says Mark Persons, Golden Valley police sergeant. "You can never be sure if drivers are paying attention, and they may be on their cell phones, too."

## More Tips for Pedestrian Safety

### Look before you cross


- Make eye contact with drivers and ensure they see you and will stop.
- Clearly show your intentions to cross.
- Watch for turning and passing vehicles.

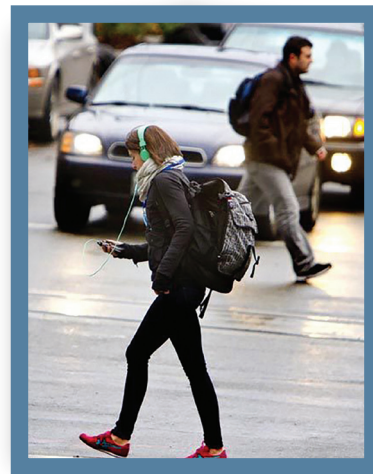
- Look across ALL lanes for moving vehicles before proceeding.

### Make yourself visible to drivers

- Cross in well-lit areas at night.
- Stand clear of buses, hedges, parked cars, or other obstacles before crossing.
- Wear bright-colored clothing and reflective material.
- Mount a safety flag on a wheelchair, motorized cart, or stroller.
- If you're walking at night, remember, people in cars may not be able to see you.

### Avoid dangerous and distracted behaviors

- Cross streets at marked crosswalks or intersections; don't cross mid-block.
- Remove headphones and stay off cell phones while crossing.
- Obey all traffic signals.
- Don't solely rely on traffic signals; look for vehicles before crossing.
- Always walk on the sidewalk; if there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.
- If intoxicated, don't walk without assistance—a cab ride home may be a safer option.
- Parking lots can be dangerous for pedestrians. Stay vigilant until you reach a safe location. 




## A Reminder About Winter Parking Restrictions

Parking in Golden Valley is prohibited on public streets and alleys Nov 1–March 31 from midnight–6 am daily. Vehicles may be parked on private property in parking lots and driveways.

Parking is also prohibited on public streets after a snowfall of at least 2 inches until the snow has stopped falling and the street has been plowed to the curb line. During a large snowstorm the City may plow a street multiple times. Keeping parked vehicles off the street will help crews efficiently and effectively clear the snow. Vehicles in violation are cited by patrolling police. Vehicles found to be obstructing traffic or snowplows, and those still in violation after 24 hours, may be towed.

This winter, stay informed. Sign up for Golden Valley snow emergency email alerts at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/news/subscribe). Listen to weather forecasts and adjust any travel plans accordingly.

To request a temporary exemption from the winter parking ordinance, fill out the online winter parking waiver form at [www.goldenvalleymn.gov/permits/index.php](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/permits/index.php). Exemptions are not valid during snow emergencies (after a snowfall of at least 2 inches until the snow has stopped falling and the street has been plowed to the curb line). 

# UPCOMING events

## LRT Municipal Consent Open House & Public Hearing

Tue, Feb 2 | 6 pm (see page 2)

## MOTHER/SON SPORTS SPECTACULAR

Fri, Feb 12 | 6:30–8:30 pm

Davis Community Center

Ages K–5 w/female adult. Sports, prizes, dancing, and fun, \$29/couple. Register by Feb 5.

## The Sea Wing Disaster: Tragedy On Lake Pepin (2015-2016 Author Series)

Wed, Feb 10 | 7 pm

Crystal Community Center

The July 13, 1890 capsizing of the steamer Sea Wing and the death of 98 of its passengers horrified the state and the nation. Hear how this tragedy affected Minnesotans. With author Frederick Johnson. \$3 at the door, includes presentation and refreshments. Call 763-512-2339 to register by Feb 5.

## Operation Rescue Room Contest Deadline

Mon, Feb 15 | 4:30 pm (see page 16)



## West Metro Home Remodeling Fair

Sun, Feb 21 |

10:30 am–3:30 pm

(see page 16)

## Brookview Community Center Replacement Plans Open House

Tue, Feb 23 | 6–7:30 pm

Brookview Community Center (see page 6)

## COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE

Wed, March 9 | 1–5 pm

City Hall Parking Lot

Make your appointment online at [www.mbc.org/](http://www.mbc.org/) (enter sponsor code 4078), or contact Ann at 651-332-7165 or [aevans@mbc.org](mailto:aevans@mbc.org). Check-in is in the Police Department lobby.

## Run The Valley

Sat, April 16 |

7:45 am

(see page 3)



## GOLDEN VALLEY COMMUNITY READS

Mon, May 9 | 7 pm

Brookview Community Center (see page 7)

More event information at:  
[www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar](http://www.goldenvalleymn.gov/calendar)

## STATE OF THE CITY COMMUNITY UPDATE

Tues, Feb 16 | 6:30 pm

Thur, Feb 25 | 7:30 am

City Hall Council Chambers

7800 Golden Valley Rd

The annual State of the City reports the City's accomplishments of the past year and previews goals for the coming year. All members of the community are invited to

attend. Replays can be viewed on GV 16, the City's government access cable channel, and on the City website.





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## Home Remodeling Fair Seminars

Free

- Bathroom Remodeling From Start To Finish
- Bath Remodeling: Small Innovations To Total Renovations
- Bee And Butterfly Gardening
- Kitchen Remodeling From Floor To Ceiling
- Kitchen Remodeling: Small Innovations To Total Renovations
- Open Concepts
- Radon
- Shaping Your Home For Today To Serve You Tomorrow
- Square Foot Gardening
- The Advantage Of Not Doing A Total Tear Down

## HOME REMODELING FAIR SET FOR FEB 21



If you're in the market for some home improvement resources, or even if you're just thinking about getting started, don't miss the West Metro Home Remodeling Fair. It's set for Feb 21, 10:30 am–3:30 pm at Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Hwy 7, Hopkins.

The Fair, a multi-city effort to boost housing conditions in the western suburbs, features seminars and demonstrations (see sidebar) and more than 70 exhibitors, including architects, landscapers, designers, electricians, roofers, lenders, city inspectors, and more. You can also get no-obligation advice from architects and interior designers in the Idea Center (bring your photos, sketches, and questions) and vote for the Operation Rescue Room winner (see below). Food concessions and children's activities will be available as well.

Sponsors are the Cities of Golden Valley, Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St Louis Park, and Hopkins, Minnetonka, and St Louis Park Community Education. Co-sponsors at press time include Bluestem Construction, Building Arts Sustainable Architecture + Construction LLC, DreamMaker Bath & Kitchen, Handyman Matters Twin Cities, Heinen Garage Construction, JW Williams Construction Inc, Neighborhood Building and Remodeling Co, Sicora, Inc, and Zen Windows.

For more information, go to [www.homeremodelingfair.com](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com) or contact the City of Golden Valley at 763-593-8099.

### OPERATION: RESCUE ROOM

*Do you have the baddest bathroom in the west metro? The cruddiest kitchen in the county?*

**The 2016 West Metro Home Remodeling Fair is looking for ugly rooms that need to be rescued.**

*The fifth annual Operation Rescue Room contest will give \$1,000 to the homeowner whose room is voted most in need of help by visitors to the Home Remodeling Fair on Feb 21, 2016. Last year, Susan Welles of Golden Valley won the contest and is using the money to fix up her bathroom (see page 13).*

*Get rules and entry forms at [www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue). Deadline to enter is Feb 15, 2016.*



[www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue](http://www.homeremodelingfair.com/rescue)



This document is available in alternate formats upon a 72-hour request. Please call 763-593-8006 (TTY: 763-593-3968) to make a request. Examples of alternate formats may include large print, electronic, Braille, audiocassette, etc.

